

20

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD SANITARY ASSOCIATION.

(124)

TRACT SERIES, No. 2.

HINTS TO WORKING PEOPLE ABOUT THE HOUSES THEY LIVE IN.

THE value of health to a working man and his family will be best understood by those who have seen the misery, suffering, and poverty which sickness occasions among working people. The bad state of the houses in which such persons live, is a common cause of the loss of health, and hence the following hints are of serious importance.

I.—Wherever a working man and his family may live, (whether in a neat cottage or a wretched cellar,) every thing in and about his dwelling should be kept neat and clean.

II.—Nothing in the way of cleansing tends more to keep away fevers, cholera, and infectious disease, than the frequent and proper use of LIME in the *washing* of ceilings and walls of houses.

Working men should therefore *lime-wash* in the spring of every year, and oftener if necessary, all walls not papered or painted, and every ceiling of their dwellings; and every privy or midden outside their dwellings.

III.—Lime-washing may be done by a man or his wife, at a very trifling cost; and the proper way to do it is the following:—

How to Lime-Wash Walls, &c.

1. Brush away all the dust; and wash the walls with clean water. (*The lime-washing brush may be used for this purpose.*)

2. To make the lime-wash, slake the lime in clean water only.
3. Let the lime be as fresh as possible; as it is spoiled by lying very long in the open air.
4. The lime-wash when made should be about the thickness of cream.
5. Lay on the first coat as quickly as you can; because lime-wash does most good when it is hot.
6. Lay on a second coat, as soon as the first is so dry that it does not rub away when the brush is used.

One pennyworth of lime ought to be enough for each cottage room; and a brush may be hired at many shops, on leaving a small sum until it is returned. People are therefore without excuse, if they suffer the loss of health from their walls being dirty.

IV.—In *re-papering rooms*, let all the old paper be carefully cleaned off, and the walls washed, before the new paper is put on; because when the dirty paper and old paste are covered up, they are liable to mould and rot; and the vapour from anything rotting is a fruitful cause of disease.

Occupiers of rooms should call upon the landlord to put on new paper when the old becomes dirty, but they should not wantonly soil or damage the walls; for in such things, want of care is want of honesty.

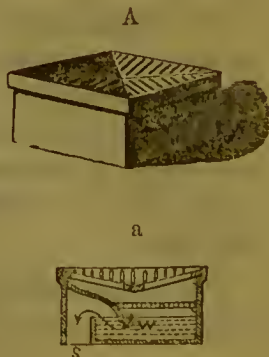
V.—*Sink holes*, both inside and outside the dwelling, require to be looked to. If they send up bad smells, point this out to the landlord or his agent, and do not be satisfied until they are *trapped*.

There are various ways of *trapping* sinks and drains: and the principles upon which the traps are constructed may be shown in the following drawings:—

Construction of Stench Traps.

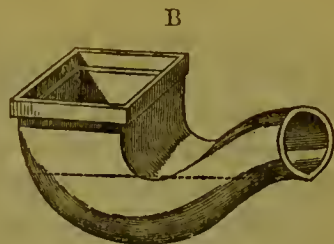
A is an iron trap, of which (a) is a section. (*That is (a) is a drawing which shows the appearance of the trap inside, if it were cut into halves.*)

When water is thrown through the grid, it can get into the drain S, only by passing *under* the curved side of the trap, and through the passage marked by an arrow; but as water always remains in the bottom of the trap, where it is marked W, the poisonous gas or air which causes the bad smell, cannot pass from the drain at S, through the water, and therefore cannot get into the house.



This trap may be put at the entrance to drains in kitchen and cellar floors, and in yards. It has an upper and under grid; and, what is of great importance, it is easily cleaned.

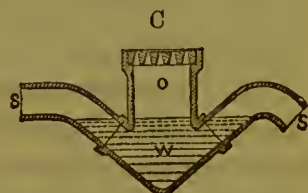
B is a clay-pipe trap, and (b) its section. Its effect in keeping out bad smells will be seen by looking at the part marked W, which always remains filled with water, and through which, as the arrow shows, the flow must take place into the drain. The mouth (at B) must be covered with a moveable iron grid; and when drains are made of metallic pipes, into which the part marked S may fit, this trap is very suitable.



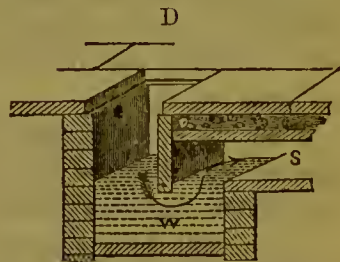
(b)



C is the section of another clay trap, to fit to pipes, at each end (S S). O is a grid or flag, or tile, which is moveable, for taking away any dirt that may settle at the bottom of W.

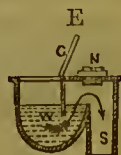


D is a trap made of flags or bricks, and if the parts are put together so as to be air tight, it is a very good one. The place of the grid is level with the flags at D; and the water passes off, through W, at S.



A trap, of similar construction, may be bought ready made, in iron.

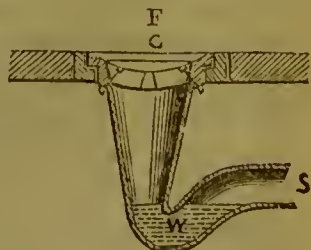
E is the section of a good *sink-hole trap*, made in iron. It requires to be tightly fixed in the slop-stone, and to be well soldered to the waste pipe beneath.



The grid (c) is hinged, and can be opened, (as here shown,) but should be closed for use.

At (N) there is a circular opening for cleaning the trap. The covering is in the form of a large screw. The waste water, passing down the grid, flows through W, in the direction of the arrow and S.

F is a clay-pipe trap, the construction and material of which are spoken of approvingly at page 112 of "Minutes of Information relative to House Drainage and Sewerage," published by the Board of Health. G is the moveable grid, the holes of which are smaller on the upper than the under side.



All traps require to be well fixed, and imbedded in cement, or a mixture of clay and sand worked together; and they should be opened to be cleaned out, and occasionally well washed with clean water.

It is almost impossible to keep fever and disease out of a house where there are bad smells from drains; and, therefore, any man who cares for the health of his family, ought to quit the place he occupies, if his landlord does not use proper means to remove such smells without delay.

VI.—A family cannot be kept in health unless due regard be had to the size of the rooms in which they are to live or sleep.

For this purpose the length, breadth, and height of every room should be measured; and if a man cannot do this himself, he should get a neighbour who is able, to do it for him; and then its size (or, as it is sometimes called, its “contents,” that is, *how many CUBIC FEET of space it contains,*) may be known.

To learn the contents of a Room, &c., in Cubic Feet.

Let us suppose a room 10 feet long, 9 feet wide, and 7 feet high. To learn how many *cubic feet of space* it contains, first multiply the length and breadth together, (that is, the 10 and 9,) which gives 90. Then multiply the 90 by the height, (that is, multiply 90 by 7,) which gives 630. The 630, thus obtained, is the number of *cubic feet of space* which the room contains.

When the size of a room is known in *cubic feet*, it must be considered how many persons are to live or sleep in it, in order to know how many *cubic feet of space* are given to each person.

No one will think that the health of an industrious working man and his family needs less care than that of a criminal in his prison cell.

Prison cells are now generally well warmed and ventilated; and the number of *cubic feet of space* allowed each prisoner, is as follows:—

Each cell in the Surrey County Prison, contains 819 cubic feet.

“ “ Knutsford House of Correction, 910 “

“ “ Manchester City Prison, 834 $\frac{1}{4}$ “

If above 800 cubic feet of space are necessary for *one prisoner*, it would seem that a room which contains little more than 600 cubic feet is too small for *a working man and his family*.

Let us suppose the room which contains 630 cubic feet, to be slept in by three persons (a man, his wife, and one child); the 630, divided by 3, will give only 210 cubic feet for each person.

It is seldom possible for working men to hire houses or rooms, in which anything like the space allowed for prisoners can be afforded for themselves and families; but where the space is reduced, the opportunities for good ventilation become the more necessary: and if work-

ing men would measure their living and sleeping rooms in the way just described, and see how little space they allow for each member of their families, and how badly their small rooms are ventilated, they would cease to wonder at the fevers and sickness from which they so often suffer. Where they are living in rooms too small, over-crowded, or ill-ventilated, their wisest course is to look about in their neighbourhood, or elsewhere, and see if they cannot find more healthful accommodation. They had better pay a little more rent, if need be, than get themselves, or their families, laid on a sick bed.

VII.—Persons who live in confined courts and entries, or in damp cellars, have no reason to be surprised if they suffer more than other people from fever, cholera, rheumatism, and infectious diseases. And if, in the midst of such courts or entries, there are open ash-pits and middens, or the privies common to a number of houses, a man must expect not only to pay the penalty of having sickness in his family, but so long as he exposes his wife and children to the use of such places, he has himself to blame if their habits become immodest and disgusting.

VIII.—When a working man is looking for a house, or rooms, certain rules may be laid down, which the health of himself and his family requires him, as far as possible, to notice :—

1. *Not to take house or rooms* on the open bank of a sewer-river, nor near any standing water, or offensive works.
2. *Not to take house or rooms* without regard to the sufficiency of the size in respect to his family.
3. *Not to take house or rooms* where the landlord will not undertake to keep the drains free from bad smells.
4. *Not to take house or rooms* which are blocked up at the back, and where a thorough draft cannot be made by opening doors and windows *both at the back and front*.
5. *Not to take house or rooms* where any room is over a midden, ash-pit, or privy; or where the privies face the houses.
6. *Not to take house or rooms* in a confined court or entry, and especially where there is in it an open midden or ash-pit, or where the privies are common to a number of houses.
7. Under no circumstances whatever to occupy a cellar, and always to seek for bed-rooms in which there are fire places, and windows that readily open at both top and bottom.

IX.—Let working men consider whether, in the present day, they need want a good cottage-house, neatly furnished, and a little ready money in the savings bank, if they will keep away from those banes of health and happiness, the beerhouse, the betting room, and low and

vicious companions ; and whether, if they only follow the course which common sense and religious duty dictate, they will not find that the greatest pleasure they can have in life is, to make a virtuous wife happy, and to bring up their children properly ; and to seek their gratification, whether at home or abroad, in the company of their families.

On the other hand, if a wife wants to have a neat house and a good husband, how can she expect such advantages, unless she keep steadily at home, and, instead of gossiping with her neighbours, employ herself diligently in mending and making for her husband and children ; always ready to welcome him at meal times, or after his work, with good temper and an affectionate smile, with an appearance of tidiness about her house, with a clean person, clean children, clean floor, clean furniture, clean hearth, clean fire-place, bright grate, bright "tins," and the family meals nicely and punctually prepared ? Let a good wife be saving in expenditure, and avoid the pawn-shop and the hawking pedlar, and she will seldom want the means, not only of keeping her family out of debt, but also of going with ready money to the best markets, and buying everything she wants to the best advantage.

Price 3s. per Hundred, or 2s. 6d. to Subscribers.

Sold at the Offices of the Association, No. 4, York Hotel Buildings, King-street, Manchester ;

And by KNIGHT & Co., 90, Fleet-street, London ; and ABEL HERWOOD, Oldham-street, Manchester ; where also may be obtained—

Tract No. 1. "What is Man, in respect to his Physical Constitution ?" Price 2s. 6d. per hundred ; or, 2s. to Subscribers.

Tract No. 2. "Hints to Working People about the Houses they Live in." Price 3s. per hundred ; or, 2s. 6d. to Subscribers.

Tract No. 3. "Facts about Health worth Recollecting." Price 1s. 3d. per hundred ; or, 1s. to Subscribers.

Tract No. 4. "Hints to Working People about Personal Cleanliness." Price 2s. 6d. per hundred ; or, 2s. to Subscribers.

Tract No. 5. "Hints to Working People about Clothing." Price 2s. 6d. per hundred ; or, 2s. to Subscribers.

Other Tracts are in course of preparation.